Pakistan's efforts to acquire AWACS from USA

484. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's efforts to acquire Air borne warning and control systems (AWACS) from USA;

(b) whether in view thereof Government propose to build or acquire AWACS as a precautionary measure; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Govenment is taking appropriate steps to counter these efforts. It would not be in the public interest to divulge further details.

Defence production unit at Phulabani in Orissa

485. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to set up a defence production unit in Thulabani district in Orissa;

(b) if so, when such a unit is likely to be set up; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Small scale sick industrial units in Orissa

486. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the small scale sick industrial units in different states;

(b) if so, the number of small scale units in Orissa which have fallen sick as on 30th June, 1990;

(c) the district-wise number, location and employment generation capacity thereof;

(d) the reasons of their sickness; and

(e) the steps taken to revive those sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Reserve Bank of India is the primary agency which compiles data state-wise in respect of small scale sick industrial units;

(b) As per the latest information available, the number of sick small scale units in Orissa at the end of December, 1988 was 8858.

(c) Data on district-wise location and employment generation capacity of these units are not collected by RBI under the present reporting system of banks.

(d) Some of the identified major causes of sickness in the small scale sector are technological obsolescence, non-availability of adequate raw material on time, frequent power cuts|trippings, labour problems, management deficiencies, unsatisfactory marketing arrangements, delayed realisation of receivables, particularly from large scale units, non-sanction of adequate working capital facilities on time etc.

(e) Steps taken to revive sick units include issuance of detailed guidelines by RBI to all scheduled commercial banks in regard to rehabilitation of sick units in the small scale sector with specific reference to definition of sick SSI units, viability norms, incipient sickness as also reliefs and concessions from banks|financial institutions for implementation of rehabilitation packages in the case of potentially viable sick units.

On the advice of the Government of India, Reserve Bank of India has set up State Level Inter-Institutional Committees

(SLIICs) in all State under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Industries Department for working out a rehabilitation package for revival of viable sick small scale units.

Vacancies in various Cadres in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Nasik Division

487. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of 4th year trained apprentices who have undergone training in the Nasik Division of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited as on date;

(b) the number of trainees absorbed so far;

(c) the number of vacancies in various technical cadres in HAL, Nasik Division, as on date;

(d) whether it is a fact that HAL, Nasik Division is engaged in production of 16 MIG-27 planes during 1990-91 and that there is a likelihood of production being increased;

(e) whether the existing workforce will be asked to perform overtime in HAL, Nasik in order to cope up with the increased production; and

(f) whether export demands have come from foreign countries for HAL, Nasik Division, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) So far 474 apprentices have undergone training in Nasik Division under the special scheme of training implemented by HAL. Of these 315 have been absorbed in HAL.

(c) At present, there are no vacancies in technical direct trades in HAL, Nasik Division.

(d) It is not in public interest to disclose these details.

(e) Overtime in Nasik is allowed on account of peaking of load due to production exigencies.

(f) Export orders form Yugoslavia worth approximately US $ 2 lakhs have been received by Nasik Division.

Scaling down Eighth Plan Allocation for Power Projects

488. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to reduce the Eighth Plan allocation for Power Projects in the Country;

(b) if so, to what extent the Plan allocation for Power Projects is being reduced and details thereof; and

(c) which are the Power Projects affected by reduction of Plan allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The Eighth Plan has not been finalised so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hike in tyre prices by tyre manufacturers

489. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KOKODKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tyre manufacturers have recently hiked tyre prices by 7.5 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this 7.5 per cent hike has been based on 'anticipated' rise in input costs, when the impact of increase in input costs is only to the tune of 3.1 per cent by their own admission;

(c) whether the manufacturers have secured necessary approval from the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) for such a hike;

(d) if so, what is the justification for giving approval to such a hike.